



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA NEWPORT NEWS NORFOLK RICHMOND

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MANASSAS PARK MAN SENTENCED TO 80 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

(Alexandria, Virginia) Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Howard J. Johnston, age 62, of Manassas Park, Virginia, was sentenced by the Honorable T.S. Ellis, III, United States District Judge, to 80 months in prison for distribution of child pornography. In addition, Johnston was sentenced to ten years of supervised release following incarceration.

According to court documents, between December 15, 2004 and March 7, 2005, Johnston engaged in numerous chat sessions on the internet in an effort to solicit and trade child pornography. As part of these sessions, Johnston transmitted over the internet from his residence in Manassas Park, Virginia, several video files depicting prepubescent minors engaged in pornographic acts with adults and with other children.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Chuck Rosenberg stated, "Protecting our children from internet predators is a fundamental responsibility of law enforcement."

The case was investigated by Special Agent Ashton Koo of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of the case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Stephanie Bibighaus Hammerstrom.

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